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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 NSC-05 L-03  
SS-15 /094 W

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P 232103Z MAY 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5487  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ( ) In Part (☒) In Full  
( ) Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/23/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - MAY 17-23, 1980

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 4120; (B) BUENOS AIRES 3695

1. [REDACTED] SUMMARY: LAST WEEK'S DISAPPEARED SURFACED IN  
CUSTODY. ANOTHER ACCUSED TERRORIST IS BEFORE CIVILIAN  
JUSTICE. THE FOWG IS BACK IN BUSINESS. JEHOVAH'S  
WITNESSES ARRESTED. PRISON CONDITIONS PROTESTED. END  
SUMMARY.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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1. (U) PST MEMBERS IN CUSTODY: ALLEGED PST MEMBERS WHO  
DISAPPEARED IN ROSARIO MAY 7 AND 11 REAPPEARED IN POLICE

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CUSTODY MAY 18.

3. [REDACTED] GOA SOURCES MAINTAIN THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY INTENTION BY THE ARRESTING AUTHORITIES TO "DISAPPEAR" THEM. RATHER SEVERAL OF THE ARRESTEES WERE BEATEN DURING THE ARREST AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WANTED TO ALLOW THEM TO RECOVER BEFORE SURFACING THEM. THIS LATTER CLAIM COINCIDES WITH A REPORT FROM HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES THAT SOME OF THE ARRESTEES WERE MISTREATED DURING THEIR DETENTION. GOA SOURCES IN BUENOS AIRES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE OPERATION AGAINST THE PST IN ROSARIO WAS CONDUCTED IN VIOLATION OF STANDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECURITY FORCES. UNDER THESE INSTRUCTIONS SECURITY OPERATIONS AGAINST SUCH NON-VIOLENT BUT PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE PST ARE TO BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY WITHIN THE LAW.

4. (U) ANOTHER ACCUSED TERRORIST TO BE TRIED: FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A MONTH (SEE REF B) THE PRESS REPORTS THAT AN ACCUSED TERRORIST, RECENTLY CAPTURED, IS TO BE ARRAIGNED BEFORE CIVILIAN COURTS. JUAN CARLOS VALLEJOS, ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN THE 1975 TERRORIST MURDER OF AN ARMY MAJOR WAS CAPTURED IN SANTA FE WHERE HE WAS ARRAIGNED BEFORE A FEDERAL JUDGE.

5. [REDACTED] IN THE PAST TERRORISTS ACCUSED OF BLOOD CRIMES, PARTICULARLY AGAINST MILITARY PERSONNEL SIMPLY DISAPPEARED WHEN CAPTURED. IF THESE ARRAIGNMENTS BEFORE CIVIL COURTS ARE ALL THAT THEY SEEM TO BE--AND WE BELIEVE THEY PROBABLY ARE--THE GOA HAS MANAGED TO PUT THAT PRACTICE BEHIND IT, A MAJOR STEP ON THE WAY BACK TO THE RULE OF LAW.

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6. (U) FOWG BACK IN BUSINESS, WE HOPE: THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS TWICE ASSERTED TO US THAT HIS ORGANIZATION IS AGAIN PROCESSING REQUESTS FROM EMBASSIES FOR INFORMATION ON MISSING PERSONS.

7. [REDACTED] HE ASSERTS TO US THAT THE PRESS OF REQUESTS FROM THE IAHRC COMMISSION BACKED UP ALL OTHER WORK BUT NOW THE PAPER IS "AGAIN FLOWING." HE SAID THAT MUCH CHECKING WITH OTHER GOA AGENCIES IS REQUIRED BEFORE FOWG CAN PRODUCE ANY REPLIES. THEREFORE, HE WAS NOT SURE WHEN WE WOULD BEGIN GETTING RESPONSES TO OUR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS, SOME OF THEM ALMOST A YEAR OLD. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUBMIT

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NEW REQUESTS TO FOWG WHILE WE AWAIT REPLIES ON OUR  
OLD ONES.

8. (U) WITNESSES HIT AGAIN: THE PRESS REPORTS THAT MORE  
THAN 200 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WERE ARRESTED BY BUENOS  
AIRES POLICE MAY 22. THE POLICE REPORTEDLY BROKE UP A  
MEETING OF THE SECT BEING HELD IN A PRIVATE APARTMENT.  
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECT WERE BANNED BY THE GOA IN  
1976.

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
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9. (U) PRISON CONDITIONS: PREPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MET WITH JUSTICE  
MINISTRY OFFICIALS LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS PRISON CONDITIONS.  
THE ASSEMBLY ASKED FOR THE ABSOLUTE ERRADICATION OF CORPORAL  
PUNISHMENT, THE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE DIET AND THE  
FACILITATING OF VISITS TO PRISONS BY CLERGY, PARTICULARLY  
NON-CATHOLICS, WHO REPORTEDLY ARE NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH  
PRISONERS, WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF GUARDS. THE ASSEMBLY  
ALLEGES THAT PRISON CONDITIONS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE SINCE  
THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR. THE FACT OF THE MEETING AND

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THE COMPLAINTS LODGED WERE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY BY THE ASSEMBLY.

10. [REDACTED] RELATIVES OF THE IMPRISONED HAVE RAISED WITH US THEIR CONCERNS OVER PRISON CONDITIONS WHICH CLOSELY  
[REDACTED]  
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PARALLEL THE ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ASSEMBLY. THEY ALSO HAVE SUGGESTED TO US THAT THERE IS A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BREAK THE WILL OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS. HOWEVER, OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO REGULARLY VISIT THE PRISONERS DOUBT THESE CHARGES WHILE RECOGNIZING GUARDS AND PRISON AUTHORITIES HAVE ON OCCASION BEEN ARBITRARY IN THEIR ACTIONS. THESE SOURCES OBSERVE THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES ARE PROBABLY BUILDING AMONG THE PRISONERS NOT SO MUCH AS A RESULT OF COORDINATED GOA ACTIONS BUT AS A FUNCTION OF THE PRISONERS' OWN SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS THAT THEY WILL AT ANY TIME SOON BE RELEASED. AT THE SAME TIME THE RED CROSS AND THE NUNCIATURA HAVE BEEN PRESSURING THE GOA TO IMPLEMENT FULLY AND UNIFORMLY THE PRISON REFORMS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR. THE NUNCIATURA TELLS US THAT A DECREE DOING SO HAS BEEN SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND WILL SHORTLY BE PUBLISHED. IF SO, MANY OF THE CONDITIONS ABOUT WHICH THE RELATIVES AND THE ASSEMBLY HAVE COMPLAINED WILL BE RELIEVED.

11. (U) MOTHERS DEMONSTRATE: ABOUT 300 MOTHERS AND RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS HELD A SILENT MARCH IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO MAY 22. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED.

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